

PS 39 Diversity and Inclusion Book of the Month: September
Theme: Multiculturalism

Book Title: The Day You Begin
By Jacqueline Woodson

Grade Level: 2nd / 3rd

Book Summary:

The Day You Begin is a beautiful picture book that celebrates the differences of people in the world. The classroom may be one of the first places that children experience these differences and the celebration of them. The message in this book is clear: Your unique story may feel uncomfortable at first, but eventually it will be the very thing that helps you find your place. A great choice for the first day of school!

Discussion Questions:

- What is one way that you feel different than most people around you? How could people support you? How could you support others who feel different?
- What examples of people's differences did the author highlight in the story?
- What was the mood for the first large portion of the text?
- What is the theme of the book?
- Why do you think the author felt compelled to write this book?
- Why are differences important in our community? In the Nation? In the Classroom?
- Have you ever walked into a room full of people who seemed different than you? How did you feel? What made you feel that way? Discuss your feelings and how they changed as time passed.
- What is diversity? Why is it important to have conversations about diversity? How might people with differences in ability, culture, race, gender or wealth/money feel when they are in a group that seems different from them?
- How does the author use imagery to create a picture in the reader's mind?
- What information is important to know when you meet someone new?
- What things do you learn about each of the characters in the book as they reveal themselves to one another?
- What would you ask someone when you meet them for the first time?
- Create an illustration of your new classroom and classmates. Be sure to highlight the ways in which you are unique.